

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9542

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJECT: U. S. NIGERIA AIR CARGO SERVICE

1. A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN AMERICAN- NIGERIAN GROUP HAS APPROACHED AN EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WITH OFFER TO PROVIDE AIR CARGO SERVICE BETWEEN U. S. AND LAGOS AND BEYOND INTO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. VISITOR CLAIMED GROUP IS ALREADY INCORPORATED IN NIGERIA, AS NIGERIA AIR- CONGO LTD. AND HAS APPROVED RIGHTS TO CARRY AIR CARGO FROM AND TO EUROPE, U. S. AND ASIA (MEMCON POUCHED MCKEE). EMBASSY VERIFYING WHETHER OPERATION ACTUALLY INCORPORATED HERE AND INQUIRING WHETHER IT HAS APPROVAL FROM NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES FOR AIR SERVICE.

2. THE GROUP' S VISITING REPRESENTATIVE WAS AN AMERICAN NAMED JAMES VAN- HISE. HE SAID PRINCIPAL NIGERIAN PARTICIPANT IN THE OPERATION IS DAVID DANLAMI GOWON, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATION AND ALSO A BROTHER OF THE CHIEF OF STATE, YAKUBU GOWON. THE OTHER NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS ARE APPARENTLY ALSO NORTHERNERS.

3. VAN- HISE SAID ONE AIRCRAFT, A CL-44-6 (CANADAIR- BUILT), IS ALREADY UNDER LEASE (THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIR- LEASES, MIAMI, FLORIDA) AND IS BEING RENOVATED BEFORE BEING PUT INTO SERVICE. VAN- HISE ADDED THAT NIGERIA AIR- CARGO HAS PLANS FOR A SECOND FREIGHTER

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OF THE SAME TYPE AND ALSO A DC-8 FOR LARGER- VOLUME

RUNS.

4. VAN- HISE CLAIMS THAT NIGERIA AIR CARGO ALREADY HAS AUTHORIZATION FOR A HOUSTON- LAGOS SERVICE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, WITH EXIT PICK- UP AND ENTRY DROP- OFF RIGHTS AT BALTIMORE.

5. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY MANY PARTS OF THIS STORY DO NOT HANG TOGETHER, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE ENOUGH SUBSTANCE TO WARRANT EXAMINATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF PANAM' S CURRENT APPLICATION FOR A NEW YORK- LAGOS AND BEYOND WEEKLY FREIGHTER SERVICE. IT IS CERTAINLY DIFFICULT TO SEE NIGERIA AIRWAYS AGREEING EASILY TO SUCH COMPETITION AS IT ENVISAGES SUCH A ROUTE ITSELF IN FUTURE AND HAS IN HAND AN OFFER TO SHARE IN PANAM' S PROJECTED SERVICE. GIVEN NA' S TIGHT FINANCIAL POSITION IT COULD ILL AFFORD TO STAND BY IDLY WHILE SUCH A CHOICE SERVICE WAS GIVEN TO ANOTHER NIGERIAN CARRIER, EITHER SCHEDULED OR NON- SCHEDULED.

6. ACTION: HAS ANY REQUEST BEEN MADE IN U. S. FOR A U. S.- LAGOS FREIGHT SERVICE ON BEHALF OF NIGERIA AIR- CARGO? SHOULD THIS VENTURE BE BACKED BY FMG, ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR POINTS WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND REGARDING IT IN RELATION TO PANAM' S REQUESTED FREIGHTER SERVICE?

EINHARDT

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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